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William Tomlinson, Junior, was born at York about forty-five years ago, where he received his education at St. Peter's School, in which his father held the position of mathematical master. About twenty years ago he went out to New Zealand to Bishop Abraham, of Wellington, with the intention of taking holy orders. From Wellington he proceeded to Wanganui, and there, feeling that the teaching profession was the vocation of his life, he entered upon its duties with all the zeal of his enthusiastic nature as assistant master in the school conducted by Mr. Goodwin. While in Wanganui it may be mentioned that the Maori War was raging, and during that troublous time Mr. Tomlinson belonged to a local cavalry corps, took part in some engagements with the natives, and was rewarded with a New Zealand war medal. Subsequently he was appointed to the position of assistant master at the Nelson College, where he remained until 1873, when he received the appointment at the Auckland College and Grammar School, which he held at the time of his death. During his residence at Nelson he married a daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Kingdon. Mr. Tomlinson was of very scholarly habits, and in 1883, notwithstanding the demands upon his time by his professional duties, he succeeded in obtaining the B.A. degree in connection with the New Zealand University. He was a diligent student of astronomy himself, and encouraged the study of it in no small degree in others. He took a creditable degree in the University of New Zealand, in which astronomy was a subject of examination, and he gained considerable repute by his writings on educational matters, and was also distinguished as a public teacher and private coach; but his onerous duties, and the exigencies of a large family, did not allow him to carry out the practical views which his sound mathematical knowledge would have enabled him to do; but at the time of his death he was looking forward with a lively hope to a time when more leisure, less onerous duties, and easier circumstances would have enabled him to do good service to practical astronomy.

His success as a teacher must be attributed to his enthusiasm for his profession. He always felt that the imparting of knowledge was comparatively a small part of a schoolmaster's work, and that the development of a manly and upright character in each of his pupils was his highest aim. In fact, he wished to make them gentlemen in the true sense of the term, and his own demeanour and bearing towards his pupils were the most powerful factors in producing this result. His genial disposition and active habits led him to take the deepest interest in the doings of his pupils in the playground, and he naturally became a great favourite with them. His interest in his pupils did not cease when they left school to enter upon business pursuits, and he always manifested a great concern for their welfare, and was ever ready to assist those who desired to further pursue their scholastic studies.

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Mr. Tomlinson's death took place under exceptionally lamentable circumstances. On the morning of January 21, 1886, he went out with a double-barrelled gun, intending to shoot gulls. He was accompanied by his eldest son, aged eleven, and in climbing up a hill in the Wakapuaka Road, he slipped, when the gun exploded and the shot from the charge went through his heart. He has left to mourn his loss a widow and a family of five children.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society April 9, 1873.

Professor Theodor von Oppolzer, the only son of the celebrated physician Dr. Johann von Oppolzer, was born at Prague, October 26, 1841. His early years were spent at Leipzig, whence, while yet in his childhood, he moved to Vienna, as his father had been appointed professor at the university of that city. Here he studied physics, but his abilities and great predilection for mathematics induced him to devote all his spare time to the study of natural philosophy. In these studies he was aided by Dr. E. Weiss, the present Director of the Vienna Observatory, who soon recognised his eminent talents for Astronomy, and encouraged him to devote his life to that science. Oppolzer, who was possessed of independent means, sufficient to remove all necessity for seeking immediate employment, therefore constructed a well-appointed observatory after he had taken the degree of a Doctor of Physics. At this observatory he observed asteroids and comets during the years 1862 to 1872 with great zeal, and his computations of the orbits of such bodies were the first papers by which he introduced himself to the astronomical world. For such work he was especially qualified by the quickness and certainty with which he conducted extended numerical computations. He published numerous papers on this subject.

He also published all his valuable theoretical researches in this branch of Astronomy in an excellent "Lehrbuch zur Bahnbestimmung der Kometen und Planeten," of which the first volume appeared 1870; and in a second, totally revised and much enlarged edition, 1882. The second volume was published in 1880. In this classic work the author has in fact reconstructed on a more comprehensive plan the *Theoria Motus* of Gauss. The theories upon which the calculation of the orbits of comets and planets depend are discussed so fully and exhaustively, that the work forms, indeed, a Treatise on Astronomy, "not only useful to the practical Astronomer, but of the highest value to the Mathematician who desires to know the exact manner in which the dynamical formulæ he is acquainted with are actually applied in practice to the calculation of orbits." This most important work has been recently translated into French by Prof. Ernest Pasquier, of Louvain.

In the year 1873 Prof. Oppolzer was entrusted by the Austrian Government with the astronomical work for the *Europäische Gradmessung.* In this position, which he held till his death,

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